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# IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

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TO: Alex Adams, Administrator  
Division of Financial Management

FROM: Dave Jeppesen, Director  
Department of Health and Welfare

DATE: November 24, 2020

SUBJECT: CFAC funding request for COVID-19 medical provider vaccination enrollment and training

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The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is requesting \$300,000 from the state's CARES act funding to enroll and train medical providers so they can administer the new COVID-19 vaccines. Given the size and scope of this vaccination effort, many more medical providers than are typically involved will need to be enrolled and trained. These funds will be used before the end of the calendar year for this purpose.

A critical aspect of the Idaho COVID-19 response is preparing to distribute and administer the newly developed COVID-19 vaccines once they are approved and delivered to Idaho. The first step is enrolling medical providers to administer the new vaccines. Those efforts involve provider outreach and technical assistance through the enrollment process. This is of particular importance given the number and types of medical providers that will be needed from doctors to pharmacists.

In the Idaho COVID-19 vaccination response plan, provider education plays a key role. Provider education helps to ensure providers are confident and well-versed in topics such as vaccine storage and handling, safety, administration, and patient consultation. With new COVID-19 vaccines becoming available soon and information changing rapidly, provider education is especially important.

For example, the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine requires different storage and handling measures than routine vaccines. One of the vaccines must be stored at -80°C, which is much colder than vaccines have required previously. With providers facing new requirements and a steady flow of new vaccine data, extra attention to provider education is vital. The Idaho Immunization Program wants to ensure that as many medical providers as possible are enrolled to administer the vaccine and have all the information they need regarding COVID-19 vaccines.